

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated August 16, 2005 (Paper No. 20050807). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Claim for Priority

On July 13, 2004, a certified copy of the corresponding priority document for the above-identified application, Japanese patent application 2003-123040, was filed, claiming the priority date of April 28, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copy of the corresponding priority document is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 13 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Also, Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter, the subject matter of Claim 3 being substantially incorporated into Claim 1. Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 13 are being amended to correct formal errors, place the claims in better form and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Entry of the amendments to Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 13 is respectfully requested.

Additional Amendments

The Specification has been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention. Entry of the amendments to the Specification is respectfully requested.

Formal Rejection

Claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 through 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for the reasons set forth in the Office Action on pages 2 and 3. In response, Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 13 have been amended and include amendments addressing this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 through 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5, 982,236 to Ishikawa et al., hereinafter the Ishikawa '236 patent.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0137481 to Chen et al., hereinafter the Chen '481 application, in view of the Ishikawa '236 patent.

The Office Action states that Claims 3, 4, 6 and 8 through 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. (Office Action, Page 5)

In response, as previously mentioned, Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 13 have been amended and include amendments addressing the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Also, in response, Claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the recitations of "objected to" Claim 3, with Claim 3 being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter.

Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 13 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 13 are respectfully requested.

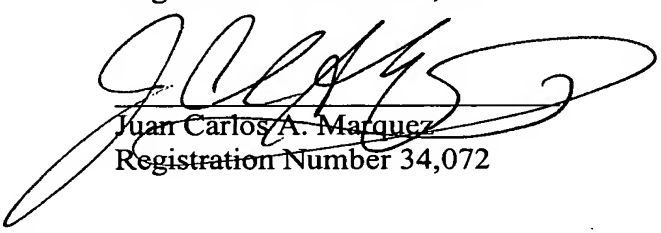
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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